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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Cases of cruelty to animals and of 'irresponsible' pet owners bring forth the issues of co-existence; activists stress on need for awareness of the law; BBMP calls for following do's and dont's

CRUEL INTENTIONS

Strays attacked, pets ill-treated, 10-year-old attacked

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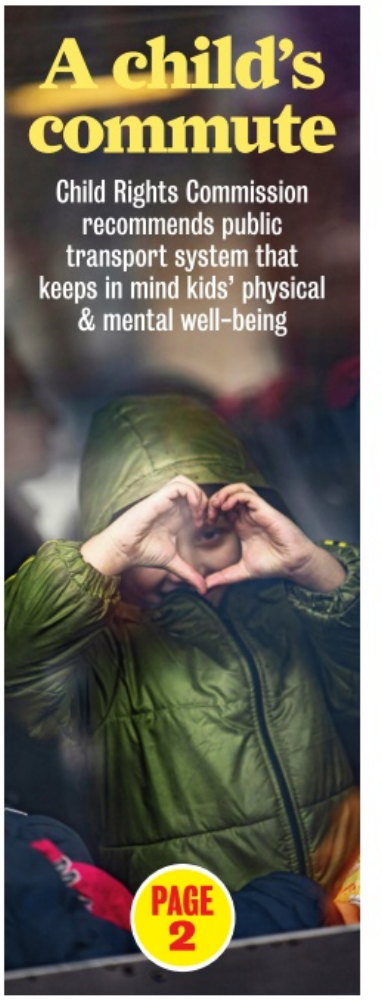
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There have been a series of incidents of cruelty towards stray and pet dogs in the city, sparking outrage among animal lovers and activists. At the same time an incident of a child being attacked by a stray dog has also raised questions about the issue of management of stray and unattended-to dog population.

A video went viral recently of a man driving through Kalyan Nagar with three of his pet dogs precariously placed on the roof of his car, causing outrage on social media. When confronted by a motorist about the potential harm to the dogs, the driver, identified as Harish, reportedly dismissed the concerns.

Following this, a PSI from the Banaswadi police station filed a formal complaint under relevant animal cruelty laws. Harish, a hairstylist by profession, was arrested and investigations revealed that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »


A child's commute
Child Rights Commission recommends public transport system that keeps in mind kids' physical & mental well-being
PAGE 2

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THINGS TO DO

01 Bengaluru Studio Potters Market

Explore artworks by 34 ceramic artists from across India at the third edition of the Bengaluru Studio Potters Market. The market is a vibrant platform for artists to showcase their unique creations, offering art lovers, collectors, and the public a chance to connect with the creators behind these inspiring works.
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
When: Until December 8, 10:30 am to 7 pm

02 Cartoon world

200th cartoon exhibition and the releasing ceremony of the annual magazine 'Cartoonists India 2024.' Panel discussion on the subject: The Future of Cartoons in the Digital Era.
Where: Indian Cartoon Gallery, off MG Road
When: December 7, 11 am

03 Inclusive space

The Drag Dynasty—An evening of celebration of art, inclusivity, and self-expression with Laganja Estranja, Elista, & India's own exceptional drag queens. This event is hosted by Kitty Su India Pop-Up and celebrates individuality, welcoming everyone to embrace the joy of self-expression.

Where: The Grand Ballroom, Bengaluru
When: December 7, 8 pm onwards

04 Theatre acts

Bengaluru Theatre Festival: Old World by Naseeruddin Shah and Ratna Pathak Shah on Saturday at 7:30 pm & Sunday at 12 pm; & Salaam Noni Appa by Lillete Dubey, Yateen Karyekar, Jayati Bhatia, Rishi Khurana, Gillian Pinto on Sunday at 8 pm.
Where: Good Shepherd Auditorium, Bengaluru
When: December 7 & 8

Activists demand transport that meets needs of children

Child rights commission asks transport dept to examine issues faced by children, create child-friendly public transport system for their physical & mental well-being

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Thousands of children in the state use public transport for educational purposes (file image)

The Karnataka State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) has pushed to establish a child-friendly system to address the numerous challenges faced by children within the transportation system, including bus shortages and sexual harassment. The commission recommended that the Transport Department create a child-friendly transportation system and conduct a study on the issues faced by children.

The recommendation further added that thousands of children in the state use public transportation for educational purposes. Reports indicated that children are facing accidents during travel, there are no buses available on time, the number of buses is insufficient for the number of children, and there are instances of sexual harassment. Currently, there are no systems in place to address these issues, which has led to significant problems. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness among the transport department staff regarding children's rights and protection. Therefore, it has been recommended to prioritise child safety by developing a child-friendly transport system.

K Naganna Gowda, chairman of the KSCPCR, said, "The necessary measures have been recommended to implement a child-friendly transport system and the related recommendations of the State Child Rights Policy 2016."

Call for a study

As part of the child-friendly transport system, the KSCPCR has suggested conducting a study to understand the challenges children face in the state's transport services. In addition, it has been advised to raise awareness among transport department officers and staff about children's rights, protection, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

A consultation with high-level officials related to its implementation has also been suggested, said Dr Tippeswamy KT, a member of KSCPCR. "Children face many problems within the transportation system, making the implementation of a child-friendly transport system essential," he added.

There have been numerous incidents that forced the commission to recommend various measures. Recently, there have been protests in Doddaballapura regarding bus shortages for school and college students, with a petition submitted to the transport minister. In 2023, a 14-year-old girl from Kusanoor village in Hangal Taluk died after falling from a bus.

> **"Implementing such system is essential to ensure well-being of children who rely on public transport for daily commutes, particularly to & from school**
> –Anand Ashwath, an activist

Anand Ashwath, an activist, said, "Implementing a child-friendly transportation system is essential to ensure the safety, well-being, and accessibility of children who rely on public transport for their daily commutes, particularly to and from school."

He noted that currently, children face significant challenges that not only jeopardise their physical safety but also affect their mental well-being and academic performance. "A child-friendly transport system would address these concerns by ensuring reliable, safe, and adequately staffed bus services. Such a system would also involve raising awareness among transport department staff about children's rights and implementing protective measures, such as restricting the stopping of buses in unsafe areas and enforcing strict penalties for harassment," Ashwath added.

DOG GONE TROUBLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the dogs were his pets. In another shocking case in Varthur, a car driver ran over a puppy that was resting at the main gate of the apartment complex gate on Wednesday. This was captured on the CCTV footage. The driver did not stop or check on the puppy. However, a case is yet to be registered. And in another case, a 40-year-old man is facing an FIR after allegedly chasing and attacking stray dogs in his neighborhood, under the Bellandur police station limits. When confronted by the complainant, the accused reportedly verbally abused him and fled the scene. The police are trying to trace down the suspect.

The latest official data reveal that 136 cases of animal cruelty have been registered this year. Animal welfare groups have raised concerns over the lack of awareness and empathy over such issues. Arun Prasad, Bangalore Urban District SPCA (Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals) member, told BM, "There's a significant lack of awareness among people about animal cruelty laws. Many still believe they can evade consequences for harming animals. The state government and local authorities must focus on educating the public about animal welfare laws, emphasising that cruelty to animals is a punishable offence, including imprisonment," he said.

Child attacked

Meanwhile a 10-year-old child being attacked by a dog in Nisarga Layout on October 27, has raised tension in the area over the rising number of stray and unattended dogs in the area. The child's mother, Dr. Maya said, "I was in the kitchen when I heard my son scream. He was clearly shaken." She said the dog's owner witnessed the attack but failed to take immediate responsibility. "She simply took the dog and drove away. At the very least, she could have comforted my son or helped with his injuries," Maya said.

Dr. Maya filed a formal complaint with the Nisarga Layout Association, urging them to address the issue. The association officer said they have no legal authority. "If the resident wishes to file a legal complaint, they are free to do so. Regarding the stray dogs, we will be writing a letter to the BBMP office," the officer said.

Maya also had a concern that though the medical report advises the patient to return if they experience pain or if the dog that bit them dies, the owner of the dog has remained incommunicado. "I don't know if the dog is vaccinated because its owner has been unreachable."

The BBMP Special Commissioner of the Health Department Vikas Suralkar Kishore told BM that in July, BBMP has issued guidelines for pet owners outlining the do's and don'ts, which they are expected to follow. "In the event of a dog bite, the first step is to provide immediate first aid and arrange for prompt vaccination, which is available free of charge at all BBMP facilities. If this is neglected, the person who has been bitten has the right to take legal action against the responsible individual," he said.

According to Dr. Abhishek Pasari, Parenting Coach, a dog attack, especially in a setting perceived as safe, can leave a profound psychological impact on a child. "Such incidents often lead to acute stress responses, marked by heightened fear, avoidance behavior, and even symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)," he said.

The BBMP's rules for pet owners also mandate keeping pets on a leash in common areas and declaring the number of pets to the association. Other rules include: Pets must be groomed, dewormed, defleaed, vaccinated, and neutered; pets should not be caged, leashed, or left on balconies. In case of dog bite incidents or rule violations, community animal caretakers and pet owners can contact BBMP via the helpline 1533.

Modern policing, community engagement to tackle crime

Police to observe this year's 'Crime Prevention Month' by increasing vigilance on all crimes, other targeted measures to enhance public safety

City police conduct routine checks on vehicles (file photo)

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A circular issued by Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) Dr Alok Mohan on Thursday outlined a series of targeted measures to curb criminal activities, modernise policing operations, and strengthen community engagement.

The Karnataka State Police observes the month of December as 'Crime Prevention Month.' This is an annual initiative aimed at strengthening public safety and addressing evolving crime trends. "December is observed as Crime Prevention Month every year, and, as always, the city police will undertake various activities outlined in the circular. During this period, we are fully committed to crime prevention efforts," said B Dayananda, Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru.

As part of this statewide campaign, the police are directed to focus on increasing vigilance, expediting the resolution of pending cases, and enhancing cooperation between law enforcement and the public. Police stations have been directed to update records, log pending cases in the police IT system, and implement guidelines from circulars and government orders. Special squads will be targeting property crimes, absconding accused, and habitual offenders, while rowdy-sheeters will face intensified monitoring under the CrPC. According to the circular, unit officers have been instructed to review pending criminal cases and prioritise their disposal. Heinous crime cases must be resolved within three months, while non-heinous cases are to be closed within two months.

Heinous crime cases are to be resolved within 3 months, while non-heinous cases within 2 months

Women, child & community safety

The circular has directed the state police to collaborate with NGOs and government departments aiming to prevent crimes against women and children through workshops, awareness drives, and rehabilitation programs. With this, schools and colleges will also host campaigns against sexual violence and child abuse, while cases involving children under the Juvenile Justice Act will be regularly reviewed to ensure timely investigation and resolution.

Addressing human trafficking

The anti-trafficking units will intensify efforts to prevent human trafficking and locate missing persons, particularly women and children, through special operations. Officers will receive targeted training, and public awareness campaigns will highlight the dangers of trafficking and related crimes.

Focus on drug abuse prevention

Officials are instructed to hold public awareness campaigns and drives to encourage citizens to report drug-related offenses. Awareness campaigns will address the transportation, sale, and consumption of drugs. The officials are also informed to take measures to create awareness among the public by implementing community policing and adequate programs with the help of the beat system.

Teen arrested for blackmailing girlfriend, extorting ₹2.57 crore

A 19-year-old was arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police for blackmailing his girlfriend (19) with private videos and extorting a staggering Rs 2.57 crore from her over a prolonged period.

The accused, a resident of Chamarajapete, had been friends with the victim for the past five years. Both were classmates at a boarding school in Devanahalli, where they developed a relationship during their pre-university years.

According to the police, the accused had persuaded the victim to enter a physical relationship, promising marriage. During one of their trips together, he secretly recorded private videos and photos of her. The accused later used these recordings to threaten the victim, demanding money and valuables under the threat of sharing the content online.

Out of fear, the victim transferred Rs 1.25 crore from her grandmother's account to multiple accounts suggested by the accused and handed over Rs 1.32 crore in cash. Additionally, he allegedly pressured her to provide gold, luxury watches, and a vehicle.

The victim recently filed a complaint with the CCB police, detailing the emotional and financial trauma she endured. According to the first information report (FIR), some of the extorted money was transferred to accounts belonging to the accused's father and other associates.

During the investigation, the police recovered Rs 80 lakh from the accused and took him into custody for further interrogation. The CCB officials are also probing the involvement of his father and others named in the complaint.

—BMB

Sewage inflow, delays mar lake restoration project

Most development work at Vijinapura Lake remains incomplete, say residents of area

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The residents of Vijinapura and surrounding areas have been trying to save Vijinapura Lake by organising awareness programmes for people residing in adjacent slums on the importance of keeping the water body clean and neat. They have been demanding the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department to ensure basic amenities at the lake for the benefit of people who visit the lake for a walk.

The BBMP Lakes Department commenced the rejuvenation of the lake some time ago but most of the development works remain incomplete. "I am not happy with the progress of development works. The construction of the gazebo is incomplete. The planting of saplings is also incomplete. There is no security for women who visit the lake for a walk. Some people are misusing the lake bund for boozing during the day itself," said Sivaraman Hariharan, Organisational Secretary of Aam Aadmi Party, KR Puram Assembly constituency.

He said residents and lake activists have organised some programmes to create awareness among the people residing adjacent to the lake. "Despite awareness programmes, some people continue throwing garbage into the lake. If the authorities fail to take preventive measures, the lake will be polluted," he said.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to construct the diversion channel for wastewater being released from the nearby slum, Manjunath A, a resident of Lakshmanamurthy Nagar, said sewage is being let into the lake through a drain from the adjacent slum. "We have been trying our best to pressurise BBMP authorities to provide basic amenities at the lake. What is the use of spending a huge amount for the rejuvenation of the lake if sewage water continues to enter the lake?" asks Manjunath.

Incomplete gazebo at Vijinapura Lake

> **Some of the work is still pending. We urge BBMP to protect the lake and make it destination for residents to visit in the morning and evening for a walk**
>
> –Resident

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, said some people, including a government school, have encroached on the lake land. "The lake originally spreads over 10.3 acres but the area of the existing lake is only 5.7 acres. We are happy with the BBMP Lakes Department for rejuvenating the lake but some of the work is still pending. We want the BBMP Lakes Department to protect the lake and make it a destination for residents to visit in the morning and evening for a walk," the resident said.

Meanwhile, BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer (Lakes) Akshath said the BBMP has a plan to fence the lake and install two gates to regulate the entry of people. "We have submitted the proposal to higher authorities. The fencing work will begin as soon as we get approval from higher authorities. The construction of the diversion channel has to be done by the respective ward engineer," the Assistant Executive Engineer said.

When contacted, BBMP ward engineer, Somanath Jadhav said that no one has complained about the sewage entering the lake "I will visit the spot on Monday. If the drain comes under my jurisdiction, I will take a decision on it," he said.

Holiday Village Road's slushy days are over

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Residents of apartment complexes on Holiday Village Road express appreciation to the Talaghattapura Traffic Police and the Change Makers of Kanakapura Road for their efforts in improving the road's condition. Following the recent heavy rains, the road became slushy, making commuting difficult. The Talaghattapura Traffic Police Inspectors visited the area and instructed the contractor to level the road, ensuring smoother travel for motorists.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, titled "Slushy road haunts students & motorists" on December 3 narrating how indiscriminate digging of Holiday Village Road by multiple agencies has caused inconvenience to the motorists and how a few cars and a school bus got stuck in the slush on the road.

BM's report on Dec 3 highlights troubles caused digging

Talaghattapura Traffic Police inspecting Holiday Village Road

Appreciating the traffic police inspectors for directing the contractor to level the road, VK Srivatsa, Secretary of Change Makers of Kanakapura Road, said that with the levelling of the road, commuting on Holiday Village Road has become a little bit easier. "Leveling the portion of the road that was dug up is a temporary measure. We want the contractor to complete the digging work without any delay and restore the road as soon as the laying of the cable or water supply pipes is completed," said Srivatsa.

Demanding the contractor to level the entire stretch of the road that was dug up, Dr Vineetha Srivastava, a resident, said the contractor levelled the road by putting wet mix at some places and just mud and stones at other places. "I am happy with the levelling of the road. Now, the road is better to some extent. I want to thank volunteers of Change Makers of Kanakapura Road for approaching Talaghattapura Traffic Police seeking direction to the contractor," said Dr Vineetha.

Appreciating Talaghattapura Traffic Police for the restoration of the road, Bangalore City Municipal Corporation Layout Residents' Welfare Association Secretary, Dharmendra P said the Holiday Village Road is full of potholes. "I want the authorities concerned to fix the pothole problem as early as possible," said Dharmendra.

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Pothole plague
Balepet

The PC Road at the Balepet turn, near the Upparpet police station, is severely damaged with numerous potholes.

Pathway woes
Malleswaram

The footpath condition on Margosa Road, near Malleswaram Grounds and the bus shelter, is concerning.

Garbage pile-up
RT Nagar

The area outside the ACP office in RT Nagar is cluttered with accumulating garbage.

2-wheelers, gas cylinders, even batteries, these thieves will take anything they get

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There is nothing that these thieves would spare, it seems. In a meticulously planned and far-reaching theft operation, the accused targeted a variety of goods, including 11 two-wheelers, 40 gas cylinders, and 28 batteries. City police have arrested two individuals involved in the organised theft ring, recovering stolen goods worth Rs 15 lakh.

The case came to light after a complaint of October 18, when a man reported the theft of six batteries from the back of his shop, located in Tilak Nagar. The batteries had been stolen sometime between September 16 and September 17. A theft case was registered, and investigations soon led police to expand their probe across multiple areas of the city.

On November 27, after weeks of investigation, police seized a two-wheeler and one battery from the suspects, who admitted to their involvement in a series of thefts spanning various parts of the city. The two men, identified as the primary culprits, confessed to stealing not just batteries but also dozens of two-wheelers, gas cylinders, and additional batteries, which they sold to various buyers across the city.

2 men nabbed for stealing 40 cylinders, 28 batteries and 11 bikes, all worth Rs 15 lakh

As the investigation continued, stolen goods were recovered. On November 29, notices were issued to a person on Gottigere Road, who had been sold 12 gas cylinders, leading to their seizure. Later that day, four more cylinders were seized from a woman in Bettadasanapura. On November 30, 10 cylinders were seized from a person in Devanahalli, and 14 cylinders were recovered from an accused's house. Additionally, 27 batteries sold to a shop in BTM Layout were seized. On December 3, police recovered 10 stolen two-wheelers from vacant lots near Tilak Nagar and Corporation Layout.

The stolen vehicles were traced to various police jurisdictions, including JP Nagar, Madiwala, Girinagar, and Mico Layout Police Stations, among others. Both accused were remanded to police custody on November 28, and were later produced before the Court, where they were remanded to judicial custody on December 4.

BM WoW Week
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False promise to marry: High Court thows out rape case

Married woman said to have projected herself to be divorced on dating app

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court dismissed a rape case against a man who met a woman through a dating app, noting that "there cannot be promise of marriage held on to a lady, who was already married". The woman had falsely presented herself as divorced on her profile.

Justice M Nagaprasanna granted relief to Akhil Thomas by dismissing charges under Sections 376, 420 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code. The accused maintained that their interactions were consensual and not based on marriage promises. He discovered that the complainant, who portrayed herself as divorced on the app, was still legally married, which violated their understanding.

The complainant's legal representative informed the court of her decision not to pursue the case further, leaving the matter to judicial discretion.

The prosecution contested the petition, arguing that the accused should face a complete trial given the serious nature of Section 376 IPC charges.

Court's Assessment

Upon reviewing the complaint and chargesheet, the court determined that the case against the petitioner was invalidated because the complainant misrepresented her marital status, being married whilst claiming to be divorced. The court emphasised that marriage promises cannot be applicable to someone already married. The court noted that the interactions between the parties were consensual, and such consensual acts within their relationship could not constitute rape under Section 376 of the IPC. It concluded that continuing proceedings would constitute legal abuse and result in injustice. Subsequently, it terminated the proceedings against the petitioner in the criminal case before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

"Promises of marriage are not applicable to someone already married. Acts were consensual

– HC observation

Reconciliation gone sour: HC nullifies criminal case

The High Court has nullified a criminal case filed by a woman against her brother-in-law and others. The case alleged mental harassment when they invited her to the matrimonial residence for reconciliation following a dispute with her husband.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, sitting as a single judge, granted the petition by Sudha Bai and others, dismissing the proceedings under Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

The court stated, "The allegations may have to be answered by accused Nos.1, 2 and 3, (Husband and In-laws of complainant) but, I do not find any ingredient of Section 498A of the IPC or Sections 3 and 4 of the Act." The petitioners sought dismissal arguing that their involvement was limited to attempting resolution between the couple through conciliation. They contended that treating such mediation efforts as criminal would constitute legal misuse.

The complainant argued that the actions of the accused constituted mental harassment, as they arranged the conciliation but the primary accused refused entry to the wife, resulting in police involvement and public embarrassment. Upon reviewing the complaint, the court acknowledged the petitioners' familial connection and their role in arranging conciliation. However, it found no other allegations meeting the criteria of Section 498A against the accused.

The court referenced the Kahkashan Kausar @ Sonam case, stating that continuing investigation against these family members would contradict established legal precedent. In conclusion, the court granted the petition, stating that the brother-in-law, his wife, and the mother-in-law's sister cannot be implicated in these proceedings, as further investigation would contravene established law.

Fan murder case: 'Interim bail being misused by Darshan'

Special Public Prosecutor P Prasanna Kumar submitted to the High Court on Friday that Kannada superstar Darshan, an accused in the sensational fan murder case, has been misusing the interim bail granted to him on medical grounds.

Submitting his objections to the court about granting the regular bail, Prasanna Kumar said that the interim bail was taken citing urgency and the court was told that he was likely to suffer a stroke. Two reports are submitted to the court and the doctors are claiming that Darshan is being treated.

"After 20 days, the report was submitted stating that variations were found in Darshan's blood pressure. They also claim that preparations are made for surgery. Any patient is given an 'Amlong 50 MG' tablet, within 24 hours the blood pressure levels will become normal. The doctors will bring the blood pressure level to normal while administering anesthesia," he argued.

Prasanna Kumar further said that in the case of Darshan, dramatic situations are created like in films.

"The interim bail conditions are misused. Again, they will claim that Darshan will suffer a stroke tomorrow. Until now, surgery has not been conducted and hence, I am requesting the court to cancel the bail," he said. When the Bench sought to know the expiry of the bail granted on medical grounds, Prasanna Kumar said "it is ending next week".

Special Public Prosecutor tells court dramatic situations are being created

CV Nagesh, the counsel for Darshan, told the court that the date of Darshan's surgery had been fixed and the information in this regard would be forwarded to the court. After listening to arguments and counter-arguments, the court adjourned the matter for further hearing on December 9. Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda and 15 others were arrested on June 11 on charges of kidnapping and brutally murdering his fan Renukaswamy from Chitradurga.

Renukaswamy had allegedly sent derogatory and obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda as he was miffed with the actor having a relationship with her despite being married. —IANS

Affordable property hub blossoms near Mysuru Road

Mysuru Road-Big Banyan Tree area is now hotspot for affordable real estate, driven by its serenity, connectivity, and development potential

Over the past few years, the area around Mysuru Road-Big Banyan Tree has transformed into one of the city's most sought-after destinations for affordable real estate. Known for its serene surroundings and proximity to key transport corridors, this once-quiet spot has become a bustling hub for property buyers and sellers looking for budget-friendly options. The rapid development of the region, combined with its unique blend of urban and natural beauty, has attracted a diverse range of buyers—first-time homeowners, investors, and those looking to escape the noise of the city without compromising on accessibility.

The rise of Big Banyan Tree as a real estate hotspot is not coincidental. Its proximity to major tech parks, educational institutions, and recreational centres, along with its connection to Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road (ORR), makes it an attractive proposition for people seeking affordable housing. Big Banyan Tree has proven to be a lucrative market for sellers, with demand for properties steadily increasing. "The number of inquiries I have received in the last six months has skyrocketed. Not just for flats and homes, but for plots too. People are keen on buying land here because of the potential for future development. The government has been focusing on improving infrastructure, so we expect property values to rise in the coming years," said Ravi Kumar, a property dealer.

Buyers are thrilled by the opportunity to own a home at a reasonable price in a well-connected, upcoming area. "I have been looking for a plot for almost a year. I was tired of the rising prices in the city centre. When I found out about the area around the Big Banyan Tree, I visited the area, and I was happy. The greenery, peaceful environment, and the fact that the metro is expanding closer to this area—everything just clicked," said Priya Deshmukh, a buyer. "The area is still developing, but with more infrastructure projects planned, this place is going to be a hotspot for property investments. It's like calm before storm, and we're getting in at the right time. The area's appeal is also driven by connectivity," added Navankur K, a property buyer. **Prakash VL**

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Karnataka houses 3rd highest no of doctors

State surpassed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu; 10% of national total of docs in K'taka

Sridhar.Vivan
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Karnataka holds the third position among Indian states for the number of allopathic doctors, with a total of 1,41,154 professionals. It is surpassed only by Maharashtra, which leads with 2,09,540 doctors, and Tamil Nadu, which has 1,49,399 doctors. Karnataka contributes approximately 10.18% to the national total of allopathic doctors, which stands at 13,86,136. This highlights Karnataka's substantial role in India's healthcare sector.

Karnataka also has the second highest number of medical colleges in the country, at 73, and leads with the highest number of medical seats, totalling 12,345. In comparison, Maharashtra has the highest number of medical colleges, 77, but ranks second in the number of medical seats with 11,900. Over the past five years, Karnataka's growth in medical seats has been comparatively modest, showing a 40% increase from 8,845 seats in 2018-19 to 12,345 seats by 2024-25. Other states have experienced more significant increases: Telangana's medical seats have surged by 110%, West Bengal by 89%, Rajasthan by 81%, Tamil Nadu by 74%, Gujarat by 64%, and Maharashtra by 46%.

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel provided an update on the medical sector in India. As of July 2024, there are 1,386,136 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC). With an estimated 80% availability of these registered doctors and around 565,000 AYUSH doctors, the country's doctor-population ratio stands at approximately 1:836, which exceeds the World Health Organisation standard of 1:1000. She said, "The government has expanded medical education facilities, resulting in an 88% increase in the number of medical colleges, from 387 in 2014 to 731 currently. MBBS seats have also risen by 118%. Additionally, there has been a 133% increase in PG seats, from 31,185 to 72,627 in India."

Doctors and health workers of Victoria Hospital conducting mock drill (file photo)

> **"The government has expanded medical education facilities, resulting in an 88% increase in the number of medical colleges, from 387 in 2014 to 731 currently**
>
> –Anupriya Patel, Union Minister

She highlighted several key initiatives aimed at increasing the number of medical professionals. "The Centrally Sponsored Scheme is focused on establishing new medical colleges by upgrading district or referral hospitals, with 109 out of 157 approved colleges already in operation. Additionally, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening and upgrading existing medical colleges aims to expand both MBBS and PG seats." The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) is further enhancing government medical colleges, with 75 projects approved and 66 of these already completed. The Central Sector Scheme is working on establishing new AIIMS, with 22 institutions approved and undergraduate courses having begun in 19 of them. To address the shortage of medical teaching staff, the recognition of DNB qualifications for faculty appointments has been implemented. "Furthermore, the age limit for appointments, extensions, and reemployment of teachers, deans, principals, and directors in medical colleges has been extended to 70 years," she added.

Go for Metro from Sarjapur to Hebbal

The State Cabinet which met on Friday has given the green signal for the Bengaluru Metro Phase-3 project between Sarjapur and Hebbal, covering a distance of 36.59 km. The project includes 17 metro stations along a 22.14 km elevated route and 11 stations along a 14.45 km underground route. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 28,405 crore. The project will be implemented under a joint venture (JV) model, as outlined in the Metro Rail Policy 2017, with financing through equity shares and loans from the Government of India. The approval also includes the necessary pre-planning activities, such as land acquisition, utility transfer, and detailed designs, awaiting the final approval from the Government of India. The civil work will begin after receiving the final nod.

The cabinet has also given approval for road improvements in BBMP limits. During the cabinet, it was discussed that several roads within the BBMP limits, totaling 1,611.49 km in length, have deteriorated, attracting widespread public criticism. Urgent development of these roads is expected to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. Hence, the Karnataka Government has approved an amount of Rs 694 crore for the development of 389.68 km of main and sub-main roads within BBMP limits.

The government has also approved a project to enhance basic infrastructure and the learning environment in government higher education institutions, particularly for students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and rural areas of Karnataka. The project, with an external funding of Rs 2,500 crore (Rs 1,750 crore from the World Bank and Rs 750 crore from the state), aims to improve the quality of education and resources in government degree colleges, engineering colleges, polytechnics, and public universities. The initiative will focus on the development of modern facilities, skill-based training, teacher development, and expanding access to education for marginalised communities.

Amendments to the Depositor Protection Bill aiming to protect the interests of depositors in financial institutions involved in fraudulent activities have also been introduced. The amendments include provisions for auctioning assets of defaulting institutions and distributing the proceeds to affected depositors. The bill also expands the definition of "market-sensitive information" and strengthens regulations to prevent misleading advertisements that could harm depositors. A 30-day window has been proposed for filing lawsuits, extending the previous 15-day period.

20 phones, 28 vehicles worth Rs 34 lakh recovered in 2 rackets

A hidden crime network unravelled in Bengaluru as police exposed a vacant plot near Madiwala Lake, which became the unlikely hideout for a citywide theft racket. In a separate bust, Bengaluru police uncovered a multi-state two-wheeler theft syndicate linked to Central Jail inmates. In total, 20 phones and 28 vehicles were recovered, with a combined value of Rs 34 lakh.

Bommanahalli police arrested two individuals accused of stealing mobile phones and two-wheelers, leading to the recovery of 20 phones and 15 vehicles valued at Rs 13 lakh.

The investigation began on November 22, 2024, when a resident of Mangammanapalya reported a phone theft near Rupena Agrahara Bus Stand. Pursuing leads, the police apprehended two suspects near the Garvebhavi Palya bus stand. Along with the complainant's phone, three additional phones were recovered. During interrogation, the duo confessed to a spree of thefts across Bangalore, revealing that the stolen goods were stashed in vacant plots near Madiwala Lake and a nearby tomb.

A high-stakes two-wheeler theft racket spanning multiple states has been exposed in Bengaluru, with ties to Central Jail inmates, a garage in Kadapa, and a spare parts shop in Shivajinagar. This well-coordinated syndicate, marked by meticulous planning and seamless operations, led to the recovery of 13 stolen vehicles worth Rs 21 lakh. Four individuals have been arrested, bringing down the organised crime network behind these thefts.

After months of investigation, police apprehended a suspect on November 20, 2024, at a garage in Poramamalla town, Kadapa district. The suspect revealed that seven vehicles, including the ones from the initial complaint, were supplied by a Shivajinagar resident. Police issued a notice to the suspect's brother, who later surrendered the vehicles. On November 22, 2024, a second suspect was detained at a Shivajinagar spare parts shop located at Chandini Chowk Road in Shivajinagar.

Bikes recovered from a previous theft in Bengaluru (File photo)

Competitive exam site defrauds customers of Rs 15 lakh

A fraud, involving CYEN, an educational platform offering services for competitive exams like IIT JEE and NEET, came to light after the platform failed to refund payments following complaints from customers about non-receipt of services. CEN Police of South Division have arrested a man for defrauding Rs 15,58,709 from Cash Free Payments India Private Limited, a prominent online payment processing company.

According to the complaint, Achish Edime Payments acts as an intermediary for businesses and institutions by processing Cash Free Payments through debit/credit cards, net banking, UPI, and other acceptable modes. One of Achish Edime Payments' clients, a company named "CYEN", processed transactions through its website to provide goods and services. Achish Edime Payments transferred Rs 15,58,709 to CYEN for eight customer orders placed on the site. However, customers later reported that they had not received the services. In response to these complaints, Achish Edime Payments requested a refund of Rs 15,58,709 from CYEN. When CYEN failed to refund the amount, they were accused of defrauding Achish Edime Payments. A formal complaint was lodged, and a case was registered with the CEN Police Station in the Southeast Division.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, stating that he had fraudulently used the name Nitirames solution (OPC) Private Limited (CYEN) to offer services on their website, "www.crackyourexamnow.in," which was aimed at providing fake online coaching and material services for IIT JEE and NEET exams.

Widened roads, metro expansion elevate Mysuru Road

Mysuru Road, once a relatively quieter route connecting Bengaluru to the city of Mysuru, has experienced a remarkable transformation in recent years, becoming one of the most preferred locations for property investment. Thanks to the ongoing infrastructure development, including the widening of the road, the extension of the metro train network, and the establishment of modern amenities, Mysuru Road has emerged as a prime residential and commercial hub, offering a blend of accessibility, convenience, and potential for growth.

"The widening of Mysuru Road is one of the major catalysts for the area's rapid development. With increasing traffic flow between Bengaluru and Mysuru, the expansion of this crucial road has significantly improved connectivity. The widening project, which involves the construction of additional lanes, flyovers, and bridges, has alleviated congestion, making commuting more efficient for residents and businesses along this route. This enhanced connectivity has been a key factor in driving property demand in the area. Developers are flocking to Mysuru Road to meet the rising demand for residential, commercial, and mixed-use properties, attracting homebuyers who are looking for a more spacious and accessible location. The improved road infrastructure has also reduced travel time to key areas of Bengaluru, such as Majestic, Jayanagar, and the IT corridors, making Mysuru Road an attractive option for professionals and families seeking convenience without the hassle of city-centre living," said Narayan Gowda, a property dealer.

Metro expansion and connectivity

"One of the most exciting developments on Mysuru Road is the extension of the Bengaluru Metro, which has further elevated the area's appeal. The new metro stations on this route provide residents with fast, affordable, and reliable public transportation options. The increased accessibility to the metro network has attracted both local buyers and investors, particularly those who prefer easy access to the city's core areas without relying on private vehicles. With the completion of the metro extension, areas like Kengeri, Nayandahalli, and Rajarajeshwari Nagar—once considered distant suburbs—have now become much more connected to the heart of Bengaluru. This connectivity has made Mysuru Road an ideal location for individuals working in tech hubs, business districts, or educational institutions, as the metro offers a smooth, traffic-free commute.

As a result of improved infrastructure and metro connectivity, Mysuru Road has witnessed an influx of real estate developments. Property prices in the region have been steadily rising, with both builders and buyers taking advantage of the increasing demand for residential and commercial properties," said Charvi D, a property buyer.

The availability of affordable housing options has made Mysuru Road an attractive choice for first-time homebuyers. **Prakash VL**

Bengaluru's rising urban population drives housing growth

Bengaluru, like many Indian cities, is witnessing one of the fastest rates of urbanisation in the country. From 2013 to 2023, India's urban population grew by 14%, compared to a global growth rate of 8.4%, according to the World Bank. As one of the fastest-growing economies in the world, India's economic expansion is directly contributing to rapid urban growth.

As a result, cities, including Bengaluru, are seeing a surge in population, leading to an increasing demand for housing. Currently, 36% of India's population resides in urban areas, a number projected to rise to 40% by 2030.

This rapid urbanisation is driving migration from rural to urban areas, with people flocking to cities like Bengaluru for better economic opportunities.

According to Knight Frank's report on affordable housing in India, the growing population will undoubtedly increase the demand for housing across all income groups.

The accelerating pace of urbanisation is reflected in the increasing number of cities with populations exceeding one million. For example, in 1991, India had just 23 cities with populations over one million. This number is expected to rise significantly, with an estimated 71 cities projected to have populations exceeding one million by 2030, including 8 cities that will become megacities with populations over 10 million.

This population boom underscores the urgent need for more affordable housing, particularly in urban centres like Bengaluru.

Despite various policy measures to address the housing demand, such as affordable housing schemes, there is still a significant shortage. The shortage of affordable housing in India currently stands at around 10.1 million units, and by 2030, the demand for affordable housing is projected to reach 31.2 million units.

Bengaluru's real estate market has witnessed tremendous growth, but it faces challenges in keeping up with this rising demand. As urban areas expand, there is a greater push for affordable housing across different income groups.

The city has long been a hub for professionals from across the country, leading to an increased demand for both rental and owned properties. Nearly 95% of the demand for housing in India is expected to come from the affordable housing segment, with a large portion of this demand coming from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) households.

The growing reliance on housing loans is another key factor driving the demand for affordable homes in Bengaluru. Around 77% of households with annual incomes under INR 1 million depend on loans to finance their homes.

However, there are challenges to affordable housing development in Bengaluru. One major issue is the scarcity of land, which has led to rising land prices.

This is where the concept of satellite towns comes into play. These smaller towns, located on the outskirts of major cities like Bengaluru, offer a solution to overcrowding and high land prices. Satellite towns such as Whitefield and Devanahalli have become prime locations for real estate development, with their proximity to Bengaluru's central business districts making them highly attractive for both developers and buyers.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

Glorious tributary

View of Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary which shares its name with the winding river

The picture was clicked by BM reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Clamour for finishing white-topping of BVK Iyengar Road

After traders' pleas, BBMP chief visits spot, asks officials to complete work by Dec 15 to resume business

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

BBMP chief Nath inspecting white topping at BVK Iyengar Road

Traders operating in and around BVK Iyengar Road, one of the nerve centres of the city's business, have been demanding the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to expedite the white topping works. Hiren Shah, a businessman, said, "People from different parts of the city come to BVK Iyengar Road to buy different things. However, the white topping work has been delayed for a long time, which is affecting the commute." Following complaints, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath inspected the white-topped roads on Friday.

He said, "I have instructed officials to expedite the white-topping works on BVK Iyengar road. During inspection of various locations in the West Zone, I reviewed the progress of the 190-metre stretch from Chickpet Junction to Sultanpet Junction. One side of the road has already been completed, while the concrete work on the other side is under-curing. I have asked the officials to complete the remaining work by December 15 to facilitate vehicular movement. I have also told officials to remove the old medians on the road and replace them with new pre-cast medians."

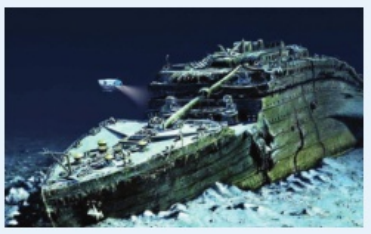
In the Chamrajpet JJR Nagar General Hospital premises, a new general and maternity hospital building is being constructed at a cost of Rs 8 crores, with a capacity of 100 beds. Nath asked the officials to accelerate the construction work and ensure its completion at the earliest. Currently, the hospital offers 30 beds for general and maternity care. He suggested writing to the government if additional medical staff is required. Observing sewage water overflow from a manhole in the hospital premises, he instructed the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewarage Board officials to address issue promptly.

The Commissioner also inspected the 220-metre-long concrete road on Binnymill Road, constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore. The road includes pedestrian pathways, streetlights, and utility ducts. He asked the officials to ensure proper drainage along the road to prevent water stagnation and instructed the installation of gratings for seamless water flow.

He also visited the night shelter for the homeless on Goods Shed road. He directed officials to identify more homeless individuals in the Majestic area and accommodate them in the shelter. He also reviewed the white-topping work on a 350-metre stretch in Majestic. He directed officials to expedite the work on the remaining portion. At the Eight-Lane Corridor, the railway department has installed precast boxes under the tracks, and the construction of retaining walls and soil clearance work is ongoing. Nath instructed officials to coordinate with the railway department to ensure the project's swift completion.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Titanic was more than just a ship; it was a symbol of opulence and innovation. First-class passengers enjoyed a lavish lifestyle onboard, with amenities like a swimming pool, a Turkish bath, a gymnasium, and even a squash court. The ship's grand staircase, adorned with intricate carvings and opulent chandeliers, was a testament to its grandeur. The sinking of the Titanic exposed the stark social divide of the time. While first-class passengers had access to lifeboats and were more likely to survive, third-class passengers were often confined to their lower decks and faced significant obstacles in reaching safety. Due to its advanced design and construction, the Titanic was often referred to as "unsinkable."



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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

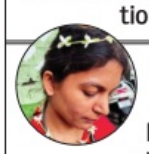
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

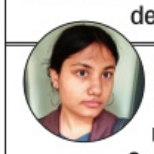
How good or bad is last-mile connectivity if you use public transport in the city?

A Malvika Mahalaxmi, BM reader
As I don't travel often, I'm not familiar with travelling to mainstream places like Shivajinagar, market areas, etc. But, compared to my first year, I get buses more frequently. So, I think it is a good effort, but there is still scope for improvement.

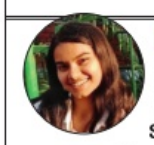
A Divya Laxmi, BM reader
The connectivity issues are faced by the public only in certain parts of the city. Connectivity is not the issue when looked at from a broader perspective. However, the arrival and departure timings of public transportation cause frustration for the passengers.



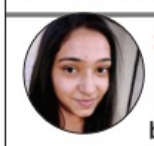
Malvika Mishra, BM reader
Since I only ever travel by bus, I don't have that much problem with last-mile connectivity because one thing in Bengaluru is that buses go everywhere over here to the most outer spaces where even now there are no metro systems; however, the distance from bus stop/ metro station to people's destination is still a bit of a hassle.



Reshmi Agrawal, BM reader
In Bengaluru, last-mile connectivity is necessary, and it's very inconvenient. Some bus stands and metro stations are nearby, but to reach them, there are almost no facilities.So we have to take a bus or an auto or our own vehicle, which we might not have.



Esha Agrawal, BM reader
I don't go by metro to many places because I feel like to get to a metro station I have to again walk to a bus stop then take a bus then reach the destination and take another bus and all of that is a hassle. So yeah, when the connectivity is bad, it makes us want to choose alternatives that are not public transport.



Soumya Shruti, BM reader
I live close to Cubbon Park metro station. And there is also a feeder bus that goes from my place to the station. It is really economical. But sometimes if I have to travel far, where metro stations have not come up yet, it really costs a lot. I am hoping the connectivity through the metro improves in the coming years.

SPEAK TO US

What international food joints do you enjoy spending time at in Bengaluru?

If you want to be featured in this section tomorrow, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, by 5 pm today, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation and a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

HEALTH TIP: Sesame oil may help delay greying of hair, improve its shine and minimise hair loss

Mustard oil stimulates the secretion of digestive juices, including bile and gastric acids

All you need to know about...

Pregnancy-related depression

Difference in grey matter
Brain scans have revealed differences in grey matter between women experiencing post-pregnancy depression and those suffering from major depressive disorder, according to a study.

Not the same as depression
The study, published in the journal Biological Psychiatry: Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroimaging, provides a biological basis for why post-pregnancy, or peripartum, depression should be considered separate from depression, which can occur at any time, including after giving birth.

What is common and not
In both the conditions, losing interest in activities once found enjoyable is common. However, postpartum depression can include symptoms related to becoming a mother, such as sleep problems, guilt, and worrying about the baby.

What was different
Researchers analysed MRI brain scans of 64 women with major depressive disorder, who either had a history of post-pregnancy depression or did not, to identify grey matter differences.
"We found bilateral grey matter clusters within the basal ganglia (in the cerebrum), an area crucial for motivation, decision-making, and emotional processing, to be larger in women with a history of peripartum depression, compared to women who have only experienced depressive episodes outside of this time period," first author Yasmin A. Harrington, a PhD candidate at the Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy, said.
The researchers explained that the involvement of sex hormones is often thought to distinguish post-pregnancy depression from major depressive disorder.
Sex hormones have also been studied to significantly affect brain structure and function, thereby impacting a mother's behaviour. —PTI

FEELS LIKE HOME

Why there's no place like home for the holidays

While Christmas playlists often include cheesy favorites like "Rockin Around the Christmas Tree" and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," there are also a handful of wistful tracks that go a little bit deeper.

Listen closely to "I'll be Home for Christmas" or "White Christmas," and you'll hear a deep yearning for home, and sorrow at having to spend the holidays somewhere else.

Strip away the cursory Christmas rituals – the TV specials, the lights, the gifts, the music – and what remains is home. It is the beating heart of the holiday, and its importance reflects our primal need to have a meaningful relationship with a setting – a place that transcends the boundary between the self and the physical world.

Can you love a place like a person?

Most of us can probably name at least one place we feel an emotional connection to. But you probably don't realize just how much a place can influence your sense of who you are, or how essential it is for your psychological well-being.

Psychologists even possess an entire vocabulary for the affectionate bonds between people and places: There's "topophilia," "rootedness" and "attachment to place," which are all used to describe the feelings of comfort and security that bind us to a place.

Your fondness for a place – whether it's the house where you lived your whole life, or the fields and woods where you played as a child – can even mimic the affection you feel for other people.

Studies have shown that a forced relocation can elicit heartbreak and distress every bit as intense as the loss of a loved one. Another study found that if you feel a strong attachment to your town or city, you'll be more satisfied with your house and you'll also be less anxious about your future.

Our physical surroundings play an important role in creating meaning and organization in our lives; much of how we view our lives and what we have become depends on where we've lived, and the experiences we've had there.

So it's no surprise that architecture professor Kim Dovey, who has studied the concept of home and the experience of homelessness, confirmed that where we live is closely tied to our sense of who we are.

An anchor of order and comfort

At the same time, the concept of home can be slippery.

One of the first questions we ask when we meet someone new is "Where are you from?" But we seldom pause to consider how complicated that question is. Does it mean where you currently live? Where were you born? Where did you grow up?

Environmental psychologists have long understood that the word "home" clearly connotes more than just a house. It encompasses people, places, objects and memories.

So what or where, exactly, do people consider "home"?

A 2008 Pew study asked people to identify "the place in your heart you consider to be home." Twenty-six percent reported that home was where they were born or raised; only 22 percent said that it was where they currently lived. Eighteen percent identified home as the place that they had lived the longest, and 15 percent felt that it was where most of their extended family had come from.

But if you look at different cultures across time, a common thread emerges.

No matter where they come from, people tend to think about home as a central place that represents order, a counterbalance to the chaos that exists elsewhere. This might explain why, when asked to draw a picture of "where you live," children and adolescents around the world invariably place their house in the center of the sheet of paper. In short, it's what everything else revolves around.

Anthropologists Charles Hart and Arnold Pilling lived among the Tiwi People of Bathurst Island off the coast of Northern Australia during the 1920s. They noted that the Tiwi thought their island was the only habitable place in the world; to them, everywhere else was the "land of the dead."

The Zuni of the American Southwest, meanwhile, have long viewed the house as a living thing. It's where they raise their kids and communicate with spirits, and there's an annual ritual – called the Shalako – in which homes are blessed and consecrated as part of the year-end winter solstice celebration.

The ceremony strengthens bonds to the community, to the family (including dead ancestors), and to the spirits and gods by dramatizing the connection each party has to the home.

During the holidays, we might not officially bless our home like the Zuni. But our holiday traditions probably sound familiar: eating with family, exchanging gifts, catching up with old friends and visiting old haunts. These homecoming rituals affirm and renew a person's place in the family and often are a key way to strengthen the family's social fabric.

Home, therefore, is a predictable and secure place where you feel in control and properly oriented in space and time; it is a bridge between your past and your present, an enduring tether to your family and friends.

It is a place where, as the poet Robert Frost aptly wrote, "when you have to go there, they have to take you in."

(Frank T McAndrew, Knox College, The Conversation)

Inter-state drug racket dismantled in Central Prison

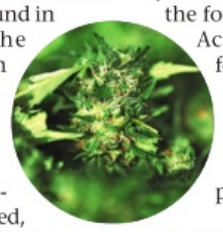
The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has dismantled an inter-state drug racket allegedly operating from the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison. Acting on a tip-off, the CCB arrested three individuals—Fayaz (28) from Kerala, Gowtham (35), and Amir Khan, the suspected kingpin operating from prison.

The operation led to the seizure of drugs worth ₹71 lakh, including MDMA crystals (15.05 gram), Hydro Ganja (520 gram), Ecstasy pills (30), LSD strips (18), Ganja (2.745 kg), and Hashish oil. Authorities also confiscated a mobile phone and weighing machine from a rented house in Chandra Layout.

Amir Khan reportedly coordinated with his associates while inside prison, raising concerns about the effectiveness of jammers installed at the facility. This comes after a November case where a rowdy-sheeter made extortion calls from the same prison, questioning the security measures in place.

4 auto-rickshaw drivers arrested for selling cannabis

The Kodigehalli Police have arrested four individuals in connection with the sale of cannabis following a tip-off. On December 3, the police registered a case under the NDPS Act and inspected at NTI Ground in Tata Nagar, within the Kodigehalli Police Station limits.



During the inspection, 8.6 kg of cannabis and an auto-rickshaw allegedly used for transporting the drug were seized, with a combined value of ₹18.6 lakh and 4 individuals identified as Ajith, Kartik, Rakesh and Karthik all the four aged 26-27 were arrested. According to the police, the four were auto -rickshaw drivers who procured these prohibited drugs from their associates at low cost and reselling it for money and profit.

All the four accused have been remanded to judicial custody and further investigations are underway.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aditi Rao R/O No 82, 8th Main, NTI Layout, Vidyaranyapura Blr-97 changed my name from Aditi Rajeev to Aditi Rao for all future purposes

I, Pooja Kumari w/o Abhishek Kapoor, R/o # 346, 7th main, Mathru shree nilaya, Viveknagar, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name to Pooja Kapoor for all purposes

MY DAUGHTER, Dishi.M, born on 22nd Mar 2023, residing at C-304, Sipani Jardin, Bandapura village road, Marsur, Bengaluru, shall henceforth be known as Chirasmi Varunavi.M Madhusudhan.M(Father)

I, ASHISH PATNAIK, R/a #32B. 4th A Cross Bhoomo Reddy Colony Rama Temple Street New Thippasandra Bangalore-75. I, have Changed my name to ASHISH KUMAR PATNAIK, Vide affidavit dated 04.12.2024 Sworn before Notary G Dayananda Bangalore

I, SEJAL CHANDULAL PATEL, SEJAL C PATEL, Residing at No 519/18, 4th A Main, 6th Cross, Opp Mahaveer Residency, NS Palya, BTM 2nd Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, Have changed my name to SEJAL PATEL, vide affidavit dated 06/12/2024 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

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Timings: 10.30 AM to 7 PM
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6 Days Exhibition / Entry Free
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 # Allu Arjun announces compensation
Allu Arjun announces Rs 25 lakh for family of woman who died in stampede

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Relationship worries

When Katrina discussed her biggest relationship fear

Before her marriage to Vicky Kaushal, Katrina Kaif once discussed her fears during her relationship with Ranbir Kapoor. In an old interview, she revealed worries that he might not fully love her or be prepared for commitment.

In a 2015 interview with GQ India, the actress expressed her deepest fear regarding her relationship. She revealed that her greatest concern was standing at the altar or mandap and worrying that he might not love her completely. She feared that he might not be certain enough to make such commitments, and the anticipation of heartbreak was her only fear.

Katrina confessed that she wasn't as close to Ranbir Kapoor's family as she desired, expressing a wish to spend more time with them. She stated that family would be a crucial factor in her decision to marry. Katrina described herself as a responsive partner, capable of being the best girlfriend if her needs were met.

On the work front, Katrina Kaif was last seen in 'Merry Christmas' alongside Vijay Sethupathi. While she hasn't announced her next film, she is confirmed to star in Farhan Akhtar's upcoming project 'Jee Le Zaraa', featuring Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra. Details about the film are currently unknown, and fans are eagerly awaiting updates.

On the other hand, Ranbir Kapoor is set to star in several exciting upcoming films. He is currently filming 'Ramayana: Part 1', where he plays the role of Lord Ram alongside Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana.

— ETimes

Magic of cinema

Veteran Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, who was recently seen in 'Singham Again', attended the Red Sea Festival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The actress, who belongs to the first film dynasty of Bollywood, has seen what works and what doesn't at the box-office.

Sharing her insights on what makes a movie truly successful in today's cinematic landscape, the actress said that the only successful formula for a film to work is that it has to create magic.

The actress said, "The formula for a movie to work is simple: create magic. Whether it's through powerful emotions, gripping action, or unforgettable music, if it leaves you inspired and moved in those 2-2.5 hours, it's a success".

She emphasised that the essence of a memorable film lies in its ability to create magic during the 2-2.5 hours it occupies the audience's attention. "In a movie, there has to be magic. In those 2-2.5 hours, something needs to touch you—whether it's the action, the music, or the story. That's what makes it all unforgettable", she shared. Kareena's words capture the heart of Bollywood's storytelling tradition where films are not just entertainment but transformative experiences that resonate long after the credits roll.

— IANS

Keira's stalking nightmare

Actor Keira Knightley opened up on the negative side of fame and recalled being "stalked by men" in her early 20s, as per The Hollywood Reporter.

She looked back at the early days of her acting career and recalled the scrutiny and body-shaming she faced from being in the public eye.

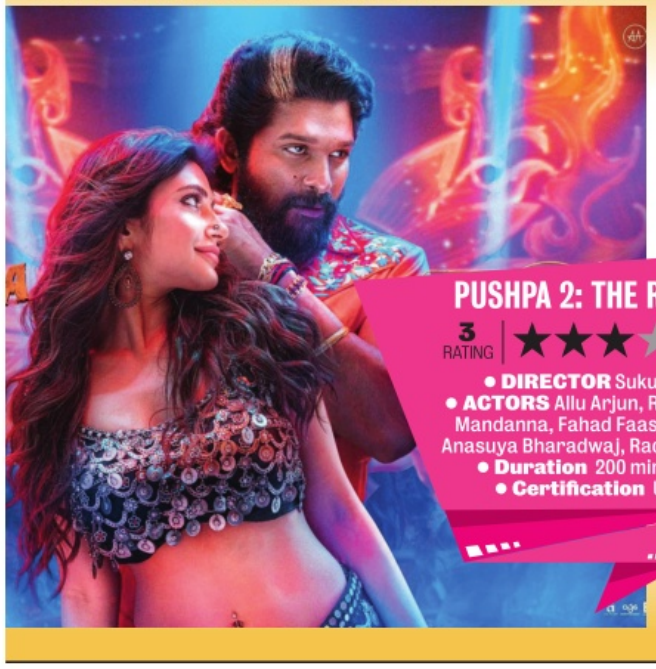
"It's very brutal to have your privacy taken away in your teenage years, early 20s, and to be put under that scrutiny at a point when you are still growing," said Knightley.

"Having said that, I wouldn't have the financial stability or the career that I do now without that period. I had a five-year period between the age of 17 and 21-ish, and I'm never going to have that kind of success again. It totally set me up for life. Did it come at a cost? Yes, it did. It came at a big cost," she added.

She gained prominence in 2003 at the age of 18 for her roles in 'Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl' and 'Love Actually'. However, she grabbed the eyeballs for her performance as Elizabeth Swann in the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' franchise and it also "attracted the most unwanted and inappropriate behaviour from others," as per The Hollywood Reporter.

— ETimes

For mass and class



PUSHPA 2: THE RULE
3 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Sukumar
- **ACTORS** Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna, Fahad Faasil, Sunil, Anasuya Bharadwaj, Rao Ramesh
- **Duration** 200 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director Sukumar, who is known for Telugu movies such as Nannaku Prematho, Arya, Arya 2, Rangasthalam, Pushpa: The Rise, has once again proved his mettle with the movie Pushpa: The Rule. Though it is difficult to direct a sequel of a movie, Sukumar managed to elevate the character of Pushparaj aptly and weave a magic that transports the audiences to a different region called Chittoor that showcases culture, traditions and slang of people living at Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border. The audiences will get a feeling of returning from Chittoor district after watching this movie.

The movie has all elements such as action, emotion, sentiment, romance and violence to cater to the needs of mass as well as class audiences. The director has succeeded to showcase the nexus among politicians, smugglers, and police. And at the climax, it seems that the director has dropped a hint about his intention of one more sequel to this movie.

The movie begins with a scene of Yokohama Port where some workers find Pushparaj (Allu Arjun) in a container along with red sandalwood logs. The smuggler of red sandalwood engages his henchmen to kill Pushparaj but they fail. This scene goes on for almost 10 minutes. In the next scene, the audiences will see Pushparaj waking up from sleep in a shock while his wife Srivalli (Rashmika Mandanna) is consoling him. Later, Pushparaj tells his wife that he wants to meet the Chief Minister along with Siddappa (Rao Ramesh), a politician. Srivalli asks Pushparaj to take a photo with the Chief Minister. The CM accepts money from Pushparaj but declines to pose with him for a photo as the latter is a smuggler. Pushparaj decides to change the Chief Minister and fixes July 24 as the deadline to put Siddappa in his place. You have to watch the movie to know why Pushparaj fixes July 24 as the deadline and what happens to Pushparaj and Srivalli and to know the fate of Bhanwar Singh Shekawat.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Allu Arjun walks away with all honours for his sterling performance. The specialty of Allu Arjun is getting into the skin of the character. His body language and dialogue delivery are super and his dancing skills are amazing. Rashmika Mandanna has done as good a job as Allu Arjun. Her dialogues – especially those dialogues expressing her feelings – tickle audiences' funny bones. Fahad Faasil, as a sadist police officer, has acted well but it is unfortunate to see his character in the movie ending insignificantly. Sreeleela's special dance number sets the screen on fire. Rao Ramesh and Jagapathi Babu are convincing as corrupt politicians. Sunil and Brahmaji provide good support. Devi Sri Prasad have scored foot-tapping music.

The only problem with this movie is its runtime.

But, it is worth a watch for all Pushpa fans.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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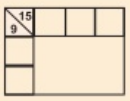
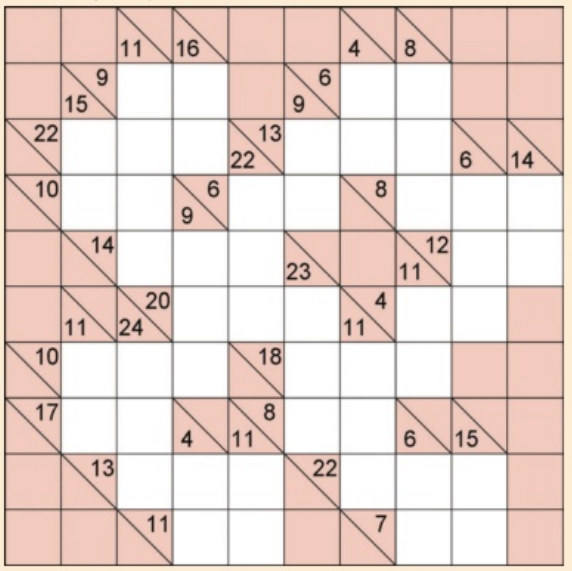
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

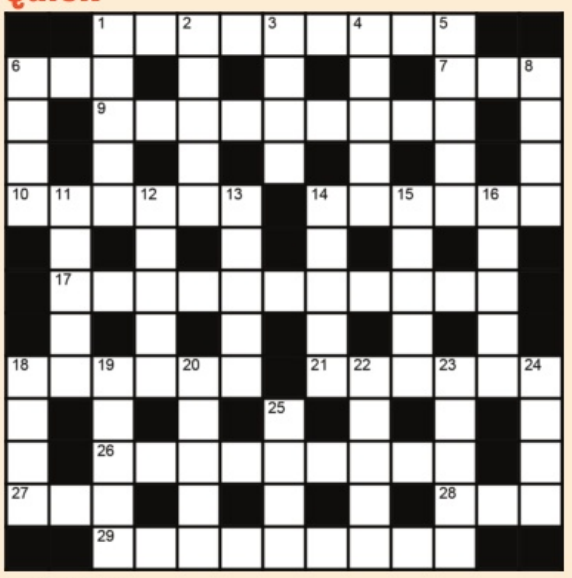


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Capital city of Scotland (9)
6 Come together (3)
7 Charged atom (3)
9 Amusement park and recreation centre in Cubbon Park (3,6)
10 Prize (6)
14 First born (6)
17 Built (11)
18 Ruddy-complexioned (6)
21 Shove (6)
26 Account (9)
27 Unbeatable serve (3)
28 Shaft, beam (3)
29 Inscribes a book etc. to a person or a cause (9)

DOWN

1 Arm joint (5)
2 Lazy person (5)
3 Currency unit of Thailand (4)
4 Antagonist (5)
5 Moving pivot (5)
6 Clothes (4)
8 After deductions (4)
11 Do extremely well (5)
12 Old fashioned name-"re-ban" anagram? (5)
13 Arranged to meet (5)
14 Explode (5)
15 Discourage (5)
16 Take ___ : be partial? (5)
18 Greek cheese (4)
19 Possessed (5)
20 Owing money? (2,3)
22 Armed robbery (5)
23 Consumers (5)
24 Wee (4)
25 Bathroom powder (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS H

OX VTR WKRX, AOM TR XVK MIWEKRX IU OEE OMTAOER; RKCOQOXKZ UQIA EOG OMZ BHRXTNK VK TR XVK GIQRX.

Linemaro

Hi, I'm Mr Right. Someone said you were looking for me

Mindchow

You can't expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday's tools and expect to be in business tomorrow

Joke of the day

Life has always been a disappointment. When I was five, I looked down at the crayons I was colouring with and sighed — this was not what I had seen myself doing at five when I was two.

Loop

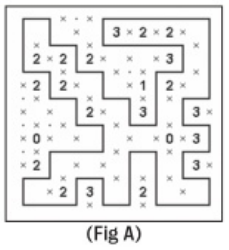
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

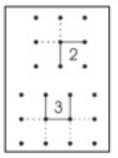
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

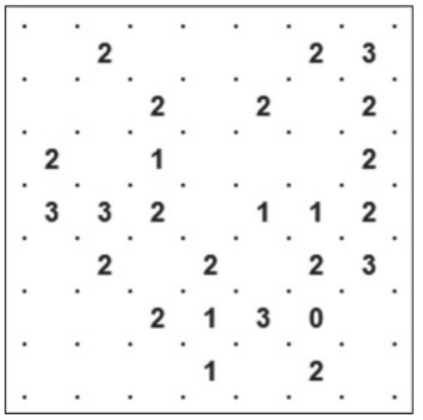
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



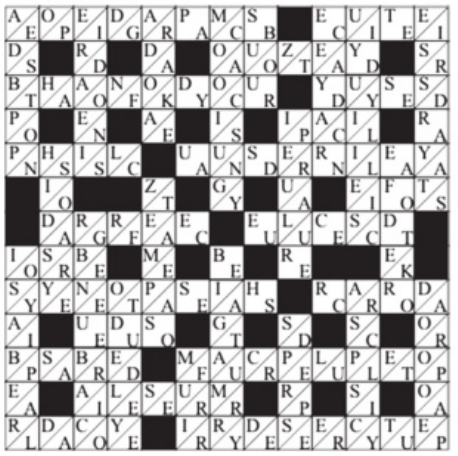
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



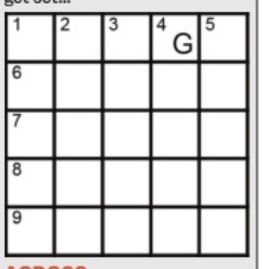
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

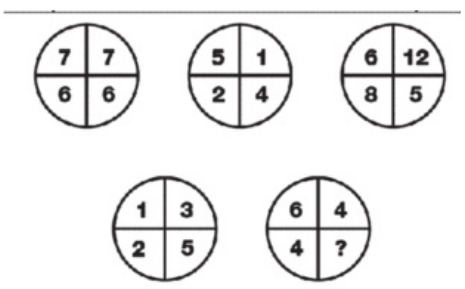
1 Grads; 6 Bluer;
7 We mob; 8 Be ova;
9 Trade

DOWN

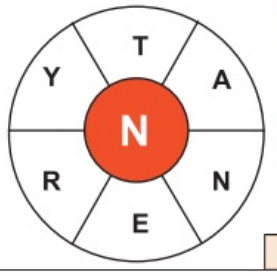
1 Darer; 2 Burma;
3 Bob at; 4 Go lev;
5 Weeds

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2			5		4			3
		6				5		
	5		3	2	1		4	
5		7				8		6
			6		7			
9		4				3		5
	2		1	7	5		3	
		3				9		
8			4		9			1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

3 4 5 9

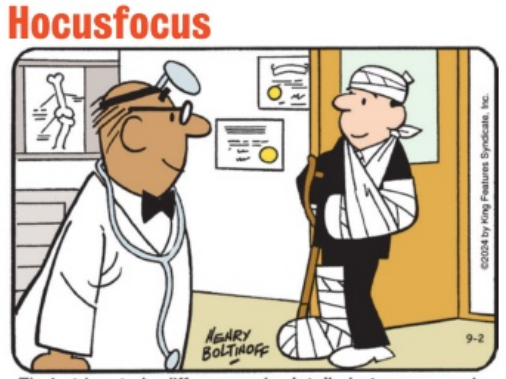
Medium = 8

5 5 5 8

Hard = 2

2 9 9 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

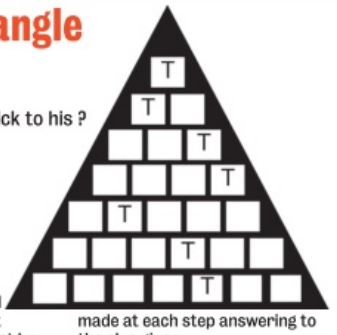
Differences: 1. Diagram is reversed. 2. Cast is shorter. 3. Top of crutch is different. 4. Window in door is larger. 5. Diploma is different. 6. Glasses are different.

Riddler

Chandana has spent three hours making sandwiches. In her second hour at work, she made four sandwiches more than half of the number she made in her first hour. In her final hour she made four times as many sandwiches as she did in the second hour. If Chandana made 160 sandwiches in total, how many did she make in each hour?

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Bye!
3 Used a stool
4 Cobbler should stick to his ?
5 Cliched
6 Dental items
7 One of twelve

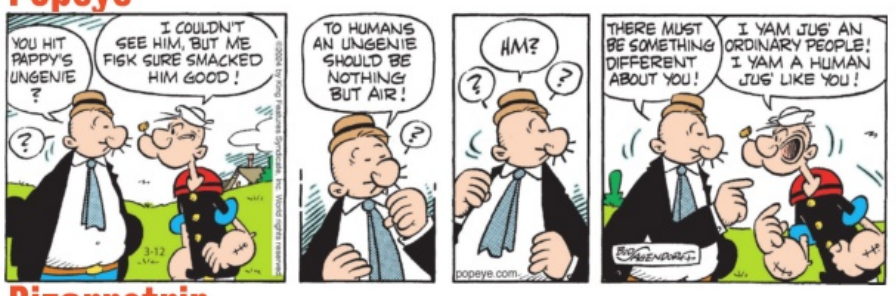


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

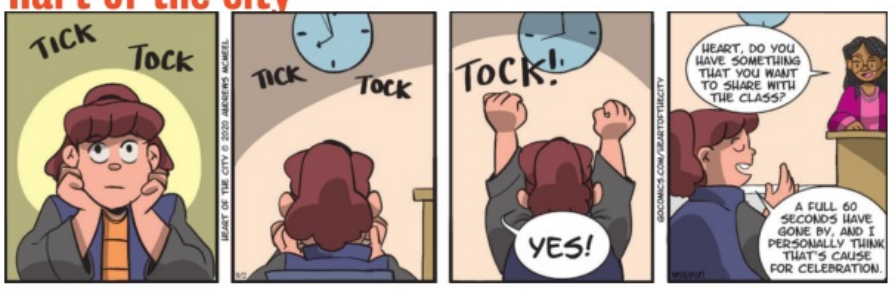

YOU HIT PAPPY'S UNGENIE ?
I COULDN'T SEE HIM, BUT ME FISK SURE SMACKED HIM GOOD!
TO HUMANS AN UNGENIE SHOULD BE NOTHING BUT AIR!
HM?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU!
I YAM JUS' AN ORDINARY PEOPLE! I YAM A HUMAN JUS' LIKE YOU!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 9-2-24
BIZARRO.COM
God of the sky and thunder, I've prepared the finest ambrosia for you.
ZEUS CHEF
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


TICK
TOCK
TICK
TOCK
TOCK!
YES!
HEART, DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE CLASS?
A FULL 60 SECONDS HAVE GONE BY, AND I PERSONALLY THINK THAT'S CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

Crankshaft

SO YOU'RE PLANNING TO TEACH 'FAHRENHEIT 451'?
YOU KNOW THAT IT'S ON THE SCHOOL BOARD'S 'NOT APPROVED' READING LIST... SO IT CAN'T BE ORDERED BY THE SCHOOL.
WHICH IS WHY I'VE ORDERED IT FROM THE BOOKSMELLER BOOKSTORE HERE IN WESTVIEW.
YOU REALIZE THAT WHEN THE BOARD SAID 'NOT APPROVED TO ORDER'... THAT WAS A EUPHEMISM FOR 'NOT APPROVED TO TEACH'!
THEN MAYBE THE BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE MY BASICS CLASS TO LEARN TO WRITE WITH MORE CLARITY.
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you might feel dull due to sleeplessness, which could scatter your focus and impact your work efficiency. A visit to a religious place might be on your mind. By late evening, blessings from your elders may bring clarity, helping you identify mistakes and plan better for the days ahead. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel sluggish until late afternoon, which might reflect in your work. However, blessings from elders could bring you back to your usual pace. It is advised to pay extra attention to your children's health. You may find yourself in a strong position against enemies and rivals. Be cautious when making investment decisions. Minor stomach issues might trouble you.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A happy and productive day at work awaits you today. Important decisions made by the end of the day could benefit you in the future and your subordinates are likely to be supportive. A short trip might also be on the cards. Good news about a sibling's success might uplift your spirits. You could be in a favourable position in legal matters.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a relatively good day. Your excellent communication skills may enhance your professional endeavours today. Being polite with those around you could accelerate your progress on projects. Lovebirds might exchange thoughts, laying a strong foundation for their relationship.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon; you might see financial benefits from a new partnership. High energy levels and enthusiasm will help you achieve your goals, leading to monetary gains. Your self-respect will act as a shield against negativity from others.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today is a good day. You may spend a joyful day with old friends or at social gatherings. Excitement may drive you to explore innovative ideas in your business, potentially leading to unexpected material gains. Your children may bring good news regarding their studies. Lovebirds are likely to cherish quality moments together.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the moon's blessings may turn small investments into significant profits. Your work efficiency is likely to improve, allowing you to achieve success with minimal effort. Favourable news regarding legal matters may come your way, and you may have complete control over your rivals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Small efforts could lead to success today, and you may see good returns from past investments. Rewards for your hard work in both professional and personal life are likely. Your reputation might grow, and new innovations in business could take shape. Disputes with your spouse may also be resolved now.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today may bring a sense of ease and control over your situations. Your professional network could assist you in advancing work-related matters, and you might also plan an overseas trip. Increased domestic harmony and a creative mindset might inspire you to buy art or decorative items for your home. An outing or movie with family and friends could also be on your agenda.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, overworking might leave you feeling tired and lazy. Past investments could turn stagnant. It is advised that you postpone adventure plans for now. Students are advised to focus on hard work. Health issues such as back pain, nervous system strain, or skin-related problems might need attention. You must be patient and take care of yourself.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your creativity may peak today, inspiring you to renovate your home or office. Purchases for improving your space might enhance your social status. Harmony with your spouse could foster a peaceful domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers, or partners are likely to resolve now. Good news about legal matters might also come your way.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A joyful day awaits you today as you balance earnings and expenditures, boosting your finances. Your network may help you implement plans successfully. Siblings and subordinates could provide significant support. A visit to elders or a religious place might bring peace and satisfaction.

KIDZONE

Karun Krishna KG, 12 years, Bengaluru

Dhanisha KG, 4 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
((25)^1/2)^4 = 25^4/2 = 25^2 = 625

RIDDLER
Chandana made 40 sandwiches in the first hour, 24 in the second and 96 in the third, making 160 in total.

QUOTE UNCODE
At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst.

FAST FIVE
DRAGS, RUBLE, EMBOW, ABOVE, RATED

BULL'S EYE
ante, earn, antry, nary, near, neat, rant, rent, tanner, yearn
TANNERY, yarn

STRIKE OUT
SPIGRAMS, THANKYOU, PHILUNDERLAY, ONEIPALA, BARDFACEUPTO, SYNOPSIS, CARD, AREMEBEELECT, ONSTRUCTED, FLORIDTHRUSTS, EEEPEE, XBAREDELDEST, EWARDELAYS, GELDINGS, BALBHAVANE, ONIONS, DEDICATES, ACEELSRAY, NARRATIVEN, ARRESTING, LACYRYDERCUP

QUICK

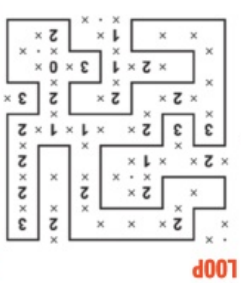
MENSA PUZZLE
1. Using the numbers in the segments of the lower two circles, the numbers in the upper left circle equal the sum of the numbers in corresponding segments of the upper 2 circles, the numbers in the upper central circle equal the difference between numbers in corresponding segments of the lower 2 circles, the numbers in the upper right circle equal the product of the numbers in the lower 2 circles.

SUDOKU

2	9	1	5	6	4	7	8	3
4	3	6	7	9	8	5	1	2
7	5	8	3	2	1	6	4	9
5	1	7	9	4	3	8	2	6
9	6	4	8	1	2	3	7	5
3	8	2	6	5	7	1	9	4
6	2	9	1	7	5	4	3	8
1	4	3	2	8	9	5	6	7
8	7	5	4	3	9	2	6	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, Ta, Sat, Last, Stale, Plates, Apostle.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 4 - 9 + 3 = 3
Medium
5 - 5 / 5 + 8 = 8
Hard
9 x 2 - 9 - 7 = 2

LOOP


KAKURO

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Bengalureans Love Resorts for Unwinding

Bengaluru is known for its bustling tech industry, thriving commercial sector, and dynamic lifestyle. But amidst the urban chaos, Bengalureans increasingly seek solace in the tranquil surroundings of resorts, both within the city and in nearby states like Kerala. These getaways offer the perfect balance of relaxation, recreation, and rejuvenation, providing much-needed breaks from the fast-paced urban life. The growing trend of resort holidays is driven by the need for mental relaxation, physical well-being, and a desire to reconnect with nature.

A Quick Escape from the Hustle and Bustle

For many Bengalureans, the relentless pace of city life can be exhausting. From long hours at work to navigating traffic and dealing with the everyday pressures of urban living, it's no surprise that people often seek short, convenient escapes to recharge their batteries. Resorts, whether nestled in the hills, by serene lakes, or amidst lush greenery, offer an ideal retreat. "I love taking weekend trips to resorts just to unwind. It's a great way to disconnect from the stress of work and reconnect with nature. Resorts offer everything one needs for a perfect getaway: peaceful surroundings, indulgent spas, gourmet food, and recreational activities like nature walks, swimming, and even adventure sports. Whether it's a weekend retreat or an extended holiday, Bengalureans have a wide array of resort options close to the city, making them easily accessible for a quick break", said Divya Kumar, a techie.

Proximity to Nature

One of the biggest draws of resorts is the chance to escape into nature. "I love the serenity of resorts. The cool weather, and the lush green hills are an absolute haven for anyone looking to escape the hustle of Bengaluru. Resorts there offer a perfect mix of relaxation and nature. Moreover, resorts are strategically located near hills, allowing visitors to experience the best of nature. This allows Bengalureans to experience a completely different lifestyle—one that's slower, calmer, and closer to nature. Many resorts also emphasize eco-friendly practices, allowing guests to indulge in a guilt-free retreat while contributing to environmental sustainability. As the demand for resort holidays grows, so does the range of services offered. Resorts cater to a variety of tastes and preferences, from luxury stays with fine dining and personalized services to rustic, off-the-grid retreats that offer simplicity and quiet",said Aravind Goswamy, a techie.

Sanjay Reddy, another techie from Bengaluru, shares his experience, "The last resort I visited had a private cottage, a personal butler service, and customised meals based on my preferences. It was a luxurious experience that allowed me to feel like a king without leaving the city behind. Many resorts offer premium services like private pools, spa treatments, yoga sessions, and adventure activities like trekking, birdwatching, and cycling. These luxurious experiences make it even more appealing for Bengalureans who need a quick break from the demands of city life."

Seeking the Best in Kerala

While there are plenty of resorts around Bengaluru, many Bengalureans also venture into neighboring states like Kerala for the ultimate resort experience. Kerala, often referred to as "God's Own Country," is known for its backwaters, serene beaches, and lush greenery. The state's resorts are particularly popular due to their ability to offer the perfect combination of natural beauty, luxury, and wellness. "Kerala is a different experience altogether. The backwaters, the Ayurvedic spas, and the Kerala-style cottages make for the most peaceful and rejuvenating vacations. I often take short trips to places like Alleppey, Kumarakom, or Varkala for a complete detox", said Anisha, a techie.